

Notch Road area, Hiram Broadband Expansion Request/ Pre-application Letter
Town of Hiram, Maine

September 17, 2010

Contact: David E. Limbert
Hiram Broadband Expansion Committee
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To the ConnectME Authority,

The Hiram Broadband Expansion Committee and the Town of Hiram are seeking funding from ConnectME to provide high speed internet service to the unserved area of Notch Road and connecting side roads in Hiram.

BACKGROUND

The town of Hiram is physically separated into north and south sections by a mountain range (the Hiram hills). The southern part of Hiram currently receives high speed internet service from both Time Warner Cable and Fairpoint Communications, with some overlap between the two providers. Three areas of southern Hiram, with a total of 72 households, remain unserved by either provider. A separate proposal is being written to partially address the needs of those areas.

In the northern areas of Hiram, some parts are served and some parts are unserved. Time Warner Cable and/or Fairpoint Communications provide high speed internet service to the village area and portions of the following outlying roads: Pequawket Trail (north to Hiram Hill Road); Shotgun Gulch (all); Hiram Hill Road (about .9 mi); River Road (about .6 mi south); King Street (to about 0.1 mi NE of Aaron Drive); Bull Ring Road [Rt 117] (to about 0.3 mi NE of Sebago Rd/King St.); Sebago Road (to Wards Hill Road); Wards Hill Road (all, including the portion in W. Baldwin); Hampshire Street (to about 0.6 mi from Sebago Rd.).

Unserved are the nine areas beyond the above listed areas. The unserved "Notch Road" area addressed by this proposal extends from where Time Warner service stops on the Brownfield Road (Rt. 160) about 1.4 miles south of Notch Road up through Notch Road and the related Branch Roads. We estimated about 7.6 miles of road and counted 79 houses unserved in this area. Please see the details in Appendix A.

The other eight unserved areas in Hiram extend from the Hiram village area. They include the outlying areas of the following roads and branches from them: Hiram Hill, Rt 5/113 (Pequawket Trail) north of the village area, Rt 5/113 south of the village area, River Road, King Street, Bull Ring Rd (Rt 117), Hampshire St, and Sebago Rd. We estimated these areas to contain about 29.7 miles of road with 147 houses unserved. Please see details in Appendix B.

Because of the limited amount of money available from ConnectME, this grant request seeks funding only for the unserved "Notch Road" area, which would cover about 20% of the unserved areas' road distance, but 35% of the unserved households in the northern part of Hiram.

Included in this pre-application letter is a listing of the proposed expansion area with an estimated cost of the project by Time Warner Cable as the primary service provider. See Appendix A.

The 18-member Hiram Broadband Expansion Committee, which has members from both north and south Hiram, determined the need for high speed internet access through a survey conducted at the March, 2010, Hiram election and town meeting, and through door to door interviews in the unserved areas. One hundred and fifty-two residents responded to the survey or were interviewed. Seventy-nine residents from both north and south Hiram noted their dependence on dial-up services, cell phone based services, and satellite and expressed their need for high speed internet service. The Hiram Broadband Expansion Committee is also submitting a separate ConnectME grant request for an unserved area in the southern part of Hiram.

THE AREA TO BE SERVED BY THIS GRANT

The unserved "Notch Road" area runs on the Brownfield Road (Rt 160) for approximately 0.65 miles in Porter, beginning about 1.4 miles south of Notch Rd. where Time Warner service currently ends to the Porter/Hiram town line and then continues on Rt 160 about 0.85 miles in Hiram to a point about 0.1 mile north of Notch Road, to pick up the single dwelling on Rt. 160 in Hiram north of Notch Road. There are five (5) houses on short branch roads in Porter on the East side of Rt. 160 that could easily be served by this extension. We then propose service extending the length of Notch Road and associated side roads from Rt. 160 to Rt 5/113 (Pequawket Trail). We estimate this part of the extension to include about 6.25 miles of road and could provide service to 74 more dwellings. The length of cable needed will depend on the routing and branching used to service the side roads in the listing. Fairpoint Communications has a "box" at the corner of Rt. 160 and Porterfield Rd, but we do not know of any DSL service in the vicinity of that box. Many years ago, a T-1 line was beginning to be installed from that box to part way along Notch Road, but that work was never completed.

COMMUNICATIONS WITH EXISTING BROADBAND SERVICE PROVIDERS

The committee has chosen Time Warner Cable as the primary and preferred provider for the project. Time Warner currently serves the more densely populated roads of the Hiram village. Expansion by Time Warner into the Notch will also allow households the option of cable television and digital telephone service. Standard antenna based television service is limited to 2 or 3 channels to most along Notch Road because of blockage of the signals by hills on both the east and west sides of the notch.

The committee has also discussed this grant proposal with Fairpoint Communications which provides high speed internet service to the village area and to other areas in the southern part of Hiram. We have been informed by Rojean Tulk of Fairpoint that they are not participating in this ConnectME round, and that they are unable to say at this time if the Notch Road area is included in any planned Fairpoint expansion.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Time Warner will use their hybrid fiber/coax system, utilizing DOCSIS cable modem technology providing 512K upstream/ 6mb downstream speeds as standard service. Time Warner will use the existing utility poles in the areas where service is to be extended.

TOTAL AMOUNT OF FUNDING REQUESTED

Funding for the project will come from the ConnectME Authority with Time Warner Cable providing \$250 per dwelling passed by the cable construction project. The Town of Hiram will not supply any funding for the project. The project is expected to be completed within the 12 month period required by the ConnectME Authority.

Grant request is based on the assumption of \$26,000 per mile construction costs. Extenuating circumstances, (high make ready costs, engineering challenges, or any other unforeseen costs), may increase the actual cost of the project. Actual cost will be determined by engineering and design after acceptance of pre-application and will be included in the actual grant request.

Road length – committee estimate	7.64 miles (includes road length in Porter)	
Homes to be serviced, termed “passings”	79	
Estimated Time Warner Cable Cost	Based on \$26,000 per mile	\$198,640
Estimated Time Warner Cable Matched	Based on \$250 per passing	\$19,750
Estimated Grant Award		\$178,890
Estimated price per household		\$2,514

Please see Appendix A for road section details.

PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

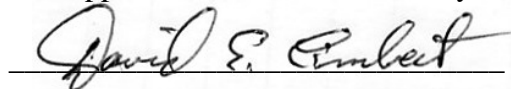
The Hiram Broadband Expansion Committee has the strong support of School Administrative District 55; the Sacopee Valley Health Center, the South Hiram Fire Department, State Representative Helen Rankin, and town residents as noted above. Letters of support will be provided with our final grant application. The Hiram Broadband Expansion Committee has also been responsible for the organization of the Sacopee Valley Broadband Initiative which has been working with the towns of Cornish, Parsonsfield, and Porter to develop ConnectME applications for their unserved areas.

Thank you for your consideration,

Hiram Broadband Expansion Committee:

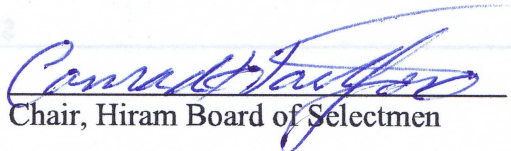
Aisha Saidi
Janice Campbell
Bill Stansky
Dan Hester
David Limbert

Pre-Application Letter submitted by



David E. Limbert for the Hiram Broadband Expansion Committee

Endorsed by Hiram Board of Selectmen


Chair, Hiram Board of Selectmen

APPENDIX A

Unserved Areas, northern part of Hiram

Area proposed to be served by this grant request

Area name	Primary road	Branch road Sub-branch	Length miles	House count	Comment
Notch Rd					
	Rt 160		0.65	3	in Porter Current TW end to Porter/Hiram Boundary
		Kenny Ln		1	in Porter on Trafton Pond
		Loon Ln		2	in Porter (one of these on Trafton Pond)
		Trueworthy Ln		2	in Porter (one of these on Trafton Pond)
		Porterfield Rd			TW could expand to here as well
	Rt 160		0.75	2	Porter/Hiram Boundary to Notch Rd.
		Trafton Way	0.7	2	into Trafton Pond, house count from arial photo
		Crowleys	0.1	2	short branch off Trafton Way
	Rt 160		0.1	1	Notch Rd north to next house
	Notch Rd, S end		2.25	22	To 0.16 mi past Ten Mile Brook Rd.
		Twin Pine Ln	0.1	2	
		Montclair Ln	0.1	2	branch of Twin Pine Ln
		Loon Ln		2	both about 330 ft from Notch Rd
		Acorn Ln		2	180 and 320 ft from Notch Rd
		Pine Haven Ln		2	both about 250 ft from Notch Rd
		Sun Valley Dr		3	houses within 200 ft of Notch Rd.
		Neighbors Way	0.14	6	estimated build length to reach these
		Clemons Cove	0.35	11	
		Bray Ridge			
		Ten Mile Brk Rd			Not counted, limited development on Notch Rd end
	Notch Rd, N end		2.4	12	From 0.16 mi past Ten Mie Brook Rd to Rt 5/113
TOTALS			7.64 miles	79 homes	
Estimated Time Warner Costs					\$161,415
Estimated Time Warner Cable Match (@14%)					\$22,598
Estimated Grant Award					\$138,817
Estimated cost per household					\$2,043

APPENDIX B

Areas yet to be served by future development

Area	Primary road	Branch road Sub-branch	Length miles	House count	Comment
Hiram Hill					
	Hiram Hill		1.7	21	
		Sargent Rd	0.1	1	
		Lewis Rd	1.1	1	
		Richardson Rd	1.8	18	
		Shaw Drive	0.1	2	
		Maple Hill	0.8	4	
		Post Rdg Rd	0.5	5	
Rt 5/113 (north end; north of Hiram Hill Rd)					
	Pequaket Trail		2.1	14	Hiram Hill Rd to Hiram/Brownfield line
		Town Line	0.1	1	
		Gould Farm Rd	0.26	13	
		Oak Woods Dr	0.25	0	New subdivision
Rt 5/113 (south of village)					
	Pequaket Trail		1	5	Hiram/W.Baldwin line to just south of Main St (117)
		Nature's Way	0.2	1	
River Rd					
					Uncertain house counts, No utilities in parts
	River Rd		2.2	6	0.6 mi S of 5/113 to Ledgeview Heights
		Douglass Rd	0.7	1	
		Birch Drive	0.2	0	
		Ledgeview Hgts	0.6	3	
King St					
	King St		0.9	4	0.1 mi past Aaron Dr to last house
		Benny Babb Hill	0.5	3	
Bull Ring					
	Bull Ring Rd		2.4	4	Fletcher Rd, N to Hiram/Denmark Line
		Fletcher Rd	1	2	
Hampshire St.					
	Hampshire St		1.7	13	From 97 Hamp.St. to Tearcap Rd. 0.2mi DSL overlap
		True Rd	0.2	1	
		Tearcap Road	2.3	7	
		Earnest Day	0.8	?	
Sebago Rd					
	Sebago Rd		1.6	2	Wards Hill Rd to Hiram/Baldwin line
		Dearborn Rd	0.63	4	
		Narrow Gauge	2	7	Most in at Barker Pond
		Pine Cove Pnt	0.1	1	
		Butterfield Ln	0.9	2	access to Barker Pond
		Barker Pnd Rd	0.5	?	need ground survey
		Pickerel Way.1	0.1	1	
		Weldman Wy	0.4	?	
TOTALS			29.74 miles	147 homes	